CLAIMS

Please add the following new claims.

11. (New) A method of power control in a wireless communication system, the method comprising:

detecting a quality of a signal received at a base station transceiver subsystem from a wireless device engaged in a soft handoff with the base station transceiver subsystem, the signal comprising a feedback channel and a second channel; and

increasing power of the feedback channel without increasing power of the second channel if the detected signal quality is less than a threshold.

12. (New) The method of claim 11 wherein the feedback channel includes a power control bit.

13. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein the feedback channel comprises a pilot channel having the power control bit.

14. (New) The method of claim 13 wherein the second channel comprises a traffic channel.

15. (New) The method of claim 13 wherein the power of the second channel is set by a gain applied to a power level equal to the power of the pilot channel, the gain being decreased with the increase in the power of the pilot channel.

16. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein the gain is decreased by an amount equal to an amount by which the pilot channel power is increased.

17. (New) The method of claim 15 wherein the gain is decreased by an amount that is more than an amount by which the pilot channel power is increased.

18. (New) The method of claim 11 wherein the power of the feedback channel is increased by decreasing a target frame error rate for the signal received at the base station transceiver subsystem.

19. (New) A communications system, comprising:

a first processor configured to detect a quality of a signal received at a base station transceiver subsystem from a wireless device engaged in a soft handoff with the base station transceiver subsystem, the signal comprising a feedback channel and a second channel; and

a second processor configured to instruct the wireless device to increase power of the feedback channel without increasing power of the second channel if the detected signal quality is less than a threshold.

20. (New) The communications system of claim 19 wherein the feedback channel includes a power control bit.

21. (New) The communications system of claim 20 wherein the feedback channel comprises a pilot channel having the power control bit.

22. (New) The communications system of claim 21 wherein the second channel comprises a traffic channel.

23. (New) The communications system of claim 21 wherein the second processor is further configured to decrease a gain with the increase in the power of the pilot channel, and transmit the gain to the wireless device to set the power of the second channel by applying the gain to a power level equal to the power of the pilot channel.

24. (New) The communications system of claim 23 wherein the second processor is further configured to decrease the gain by an amount equal to an amount by which the pilot channel power is increased.

25. (New) The communications system of claim 23 wherein the second processor is further configured to decreased the gain by an amount that is more than an amount by which the pilot channel power is increased.

26. (New) The communications system of claim 19 wherein the second processor is further configured to increase the power of the feedback channel in response to a decrease in a target frame error rate by the first processor.